

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 562  
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to recognize Country Music Legend Ferlin Husky  
for his career achievements.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage; talented musicians from across the Nation have traveled to Nashville to begin legendary careers that have earned Music City U.S.A. a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, one such legendary musical talent is Ferlin Husky, who was born December 3, 1925, on a farm near Flat River, Missouri; his childhood dreams were to become a singer and make records, to appear on the Grand Ole Opry, and to become a movie actor and star; and

WHEREAS, as a youth he sang locally at church functions and amateur competitions; then Mr. Husky's dreams were put on hold while he served his country for five years during World War II; he joined the United States Merchant Marines, was among those brave men who served with courage and valor on D-Day during the Allied invasion of France in 1944, and was subsequently awarded a Volunteer Gunner citation for his meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky returned home in 1947 to Missouri, where he became a disc jockey; he then moved to California, tried his hand at acting, and recorded for Bill McCall's Four Star Records and Capitol Records under the names "Terry Preston" and "Tex Terry"; he also performed comedy routines using the name "Simon Crum"; he became a vital element of the newly emerging "Bakersfield Sound," which was later popularized by his associate, Buck Owens, and more recently by artist Dwight Yoakam; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Mr. Husky returned to his given name, and teamed up with young Bakersfield singer Jean Shepard to record what became his first hit, "A Dear John Letter"; this song was Number One on the country charts for six weeks, and crossed over to reach Number

Four on the pop charts; the pair's follow-up song, "Forgive Me John," also charted in the Top Ten, and thus both of their careers were successfully launched; and

WHEREAS, the next big hit for Ferlin Husky was "I Feel Better All Over (More Than Anywhere Else)," which reached Number Six on the country charts; the flip side, "Little Tom," also made it into the Top Ten; the 1950s brought several career highlights, as when he joined the world-famous Grand Ole Opry, and helped to make the Opry one of the nation's most popular music programs during this decade; and

WHEREAS, in order to compete with the emergent success of rock 'n' roll music in 1956, Mr. Husky's next record, "(Since You've) Gone," pioneered the replacement of the steel guitar and fiddle with a modest rhythm section and the background voices of Millie Kirkham and the Jordanares; the change was so extreme that some disc jockeys refused to play the song; however, by 1957, "Gone" reached Number One on the country charts, and held that position for ten weeks; "Gone" also made it to Number Four on the pop charts, becoming a true "crossover" success, and was arguably, the first hit song made with the distinctive "Nashville Sound," a production technique still used today; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky's next hit was the gospel song, "Wings of a Dove," which charted at Number One for ten weeks in 1960, and will forever be associated with him; this success was followed by "Once," which charted at Number Four in 1967; "Just For You," which reached Number Four in 1968; and "Rosie Cries A Lot," a Top 20 hit in 1973; and

WHEREAS, his abilities were not limited to the art and business of music, as the multi-talented Mr. Husky fulfilled another dream; he made more than eighteen motion pictures and appeared on numerous television shows; he also had two hit records as his alter ego, comedian "Simon Crum," a hayseed philosopher and typical "country bumpkin." He has traveled around the world, performed for countless fans in Germany, England, Japan, Canada, and all fifty of the United States, and has obtained the respect and admiration of his colleagues, who view him as an "entertainer's entertainer"; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky has seen fifty-five of his records reach the country charts, has enjoyed five gold records, and has sold more than twenty million records; he was the first performer on the Grand Ole Opry to be accompanied by drums and a modern back-up vocal

group, and he was the first Country performer to be awarded a star on the sidewalk of Hollywood Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Husky's instantly recognizable voice is an amazing instrument able to climb from a rumbling baritone up into a quavering tenor, giving his songs a sweeping, dramatic grandeur; he has received numerous awards and accolades through the years, including BMI's 2000 Golden Voice Award, which salutes performers who have "given country music her voice"; he continues to be a popular concert draw, and, following his recuperation from heart surgery in December of 2005, plans to return to the studio to begin recording his first country album in more than ten years; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky is one of the most versatile performers in the history of country music; his immeasurable talent and innovative approach have enabled him to leave an indelible mark on this art form, and secured for him his rightful place as an icon in its remarkable archives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Husky is also known by his friends to be a generous, humble, and God-fearing man. "Those who are close to him know he is not ashamed to kneel and bow his head before God," according to his longtime friend and colleague, Rev. Dallas Frazer; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize the illustrious career and extraordinary musical talents of one of the Kings of Classic Country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Ferlin Husky on his legendary musical talent as a performing artist and entertainer, his impressive role as an ambassador of the great State of Tennessee, and his singular contributions to country music. We extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.